vised to rush a delegation to Jordan and sort out the matter. MMTC has since received further orders for export of wheat to Jordan.

Statement

Export of Wheat

Qty. in Tonnes

Country	1990-91	1991-92 Upto 18-11-91
Total	2,01,257	4,58,503
Of which		
Korea DPR	76,489	1,38,000
Sudan	35,768	35,140
Jordan	89,000	1,96,000
Oman	—	6,000
Malaysia	—	58,226
U.A.E.	—	25,137

PM's calls for promotion of exports

1014. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while inaugurating the silver jubilee celebrations of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the Prime Minister emphasised economic reforms to promote exports, by diversifying the export basket, with special emphasis on exports from agricultural sector;

(b) if so, what further steps are contemplated in that direction; and

(c) what action have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) and (c) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. REP licences have been replaced by a new instrument named Exim Scrips. These will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of imports of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government has decided to allow established exporters to open Foreign currency accounts in approved banks and allow exporters to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts, and credit export proceeds to such accounts. Besides, Government have taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with selected countries, interaction with national organisations of trade and industry, etc.

Export Policy in respect of certain agricultural commodities have been liberalised by shifting of items which were earlier subject to ceiling to the list of items allowed for export under OGL, by decontrolling the export of selected agricul-

tural commodities and by significantly increasing the Eximscrip entitlement. The exchange rate adjustments will benefit agricultural exports also.

Premium on Export-Import scrips

1015. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a high premium on Export Import scrips and whether the premium keeps rising;

(b) what is the present premium;

(c) whether Public Sector Undertakings are suffering heavy losses as a consequence thereof; and

(d) whether rescue measures will be undertaken for these Public Sector Undertakings or will they be allowed to languish and close down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The premium on Exim Scrips is not high and has oscillated within a narrow band in recent months.

(b) Current premium on Exim Scrip ranges from 22 per cent to 25 per cent.

(c) We have not received any complaints/representations conveying losses by Public Sector Undertakings.

(d) Governments are monitoring the premium on Exim Scrip to ensure that it acts as an incentive for export efforts and to regulate imports but does not become a speculative activity; suitable measures are being taken from time to time to remove difficulties faced by exporters based on regular and periodic interaction with trade and industry.

Export of Vat Napthol and acid dyes

1016. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of Vat. Napthol and acid dyes exported during the year 1990-91 and their FOB value;

(b) what is the amount of cash incentives and the value of import entitlements and draw back of duties allowed to the exporters during the year 1990-91;

(c) what is the effect of export of dyes on the availability and prices of dyes and chemicals for handloom industry;

(d) whether any representation has been received by Government to restrict the export of dyes and chemicals keeping in view the actual needs of handloom industry and other allied industries, if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(e) whether there is any proposal with Government to procure the required quantities of dyes and chemicals from manufacturers at fixed prices and arrange their distribution by National Handlooms Development Corporation and State Apex Weavers' Societies to handloom weavers at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The FOB value of Vat, Naphthol and Acid dyes exported during 1990-91 is Rs. 48.4 crores, 2.2 crores and 10.8 crores respectively. Exports of these items are being monitored in value term.

(b) Separate statistics regarding amount of CCS, import replenishment and duty drawback paid on individual items are not maintained. However, a general drawback rate of 10 per cent was available during 1990-91 on exports of synthetic organic dyestuffs, dye-Intermediates, pigment dyestuffs and lake colour which also include Vat-Nap-thol and Acid dyes. Cash Compensatory Support @ 12 per cent and import replenishment @ 20 per cent were also available during the period.

(c) There is no shortage of Vat, Naphthol and Acid dyes in the country and there is no adverse effect on domestic availability and prices for handloom industry.

(d) Representations for restricting exports of dyes and other chemicals are received from time to time. However, the present policy decision of allowing ex-